Diagonal Brace

SD Conservation Job Sheet 382-4
January, 2002

1. The diagonal brace assembly may be used as a brace at a gate, an in-line brace, or at corners. When used as an in-line brace or at corners another diagonal brace post and required appurtenances will be added at the appropriate angle to the single 5” x 7” vertical post.
2. Brace: 4" x 4" treated lumber or 4" diameter treated wood post that has a minimum length of 2.5 times the height of the top fence wire.
3. Brace wire: High tensile 12.5 gauge wire with an in-line strainer attached for proper tensioning.
4. In-line brace assemblies will be spaced at intervals no greater than 4000 feet for power fence, 1320 feet for general purpose fence and, 825 feet for protective fence on level terrain.
5. Corner, gate and in-line brace posts will be decay-resistant or treated wood, 5" x 7' long. Seating depth at least 3 feet.
6. Treated lumber, a flat rock, concrete or patio block will be placed under the diagonal to keep it from digging into the ground and allowing it to “float”.
7. Staples should be placed between the brace wire and the post at the end of the diagonal brace to keep the tensioning wire from digging into the wooden brace post.
8. When the diagonal brace assembly is used with a barbed wire fence, two pieces of steel post or similar material should be used to stabilize the brace. Drive each piece 1.5 feet deep on each side of the lower end of the brace as shown in the figure below.
9. To function properly the diagonal brace must be allowed to float. Do not firmly attach any of the fence line wires to the diagonal. Wires attached to the diagonal must be allowed to slide through an insulator or a staple.

Construction